

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19698 241547Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT EG
SUBJECT: DECISION TO BE DEFERRED ON CABINET CHANGES

SUMMARY: NDP OFFICIAL SAYS DECISIONS ON RESHUFFLING
CABINET AND REORGANIZING GOVERNMENT TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL
AFTER CAMP DAVID. GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP CONTROL OF PRESS.
LEFT TO REMAIN UNDER PRESSURE. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING TO EMBOFF AUGUST 24, MOHAMED RADWAN (MEMBER
OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY FIVE MAN ORGANIZING COM-
MITTEE) SAID SADAT WILL PUT OFF RESHUFFLING OF CABINET
UNTIL AFTER CAMP DAVID. RADWAN SAID HE EXPECTS SADAT TO
COMPLETELY REVAMP CABINET, ALTHOUGH SOME MINISTERS
ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN. HE THOUGHT THESE WERE LIKELY TO
BE THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE FOR SHORTEST
PERIODS OF TIME. SADAT HAS TOLD COMMITTEE, RADWAN
CLAIMED, THAT NEW MINISTERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM IN-
DIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEVER BEFORE HELD CABINET POSITIONS.
PRESIDENT'S PREFERENCE, REPORTEDLY, IS TO TAP YOUNGER
GENERATION--RADWAN SAID MOST WOULD BE IN THEIR 30'S
(RADWAN, HIMSELF, IS 37--AND HOPEFUL).

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 19698 241547Z

2. PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO RADWAN, SADAT REMAINS
AMBIVALENT ON THE QUESTION OF ASSUMING THE PRIME
MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO. THIS DECISION, TOO, WILL BE MADE
AFTER CAMP DAVID. RADWAN SAID SADAT'S BURDENS ARE
ALREADY HEAVY, AND PRESIDENT IS RELUCTANT TO ASSUME
ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. SHOULD HE BECOME PRIME

MINISTER, RADWAN EXPECTS SADAT TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY
FOR CABINET AFFAIRS TO A DEPUTY.

3. PRESS. RADWAN SAID ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
FIKRI MAKRAM EBEID'S SUGGESTION THAT NATIONAL PAPERS
BE SOLD TO THEIR EMPLOYEES IS LIKELY TO BE SHELVED.
(RADWAN IMPLIED IT COULD BE DANGEROUS IF WORKING PRESS
OWNED THEIR OWN PAPERS--"YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IS IN THE
BACK OF A JOURNALIST'S MIND.") HE SAID PARTY RECOGNIZES
NEED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AND WILL DO SO THROUGH PASSING
PRESS OWNERSHIP FROM ASU TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.
NDP WILL ESTABLISH A WEEKLY TO EXPRESS ITS "OFFICIAL"
VIEWS BUT FUNDING IS PROVING AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM.
PARTY, REPORTEDLY, WILL SEEK A LOAN FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. LEFT. AS HAVE OTHER MEMBERS OF NEW PARTY, RADWAN
EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE
OFFICIAL LEFT. HE DESCRIBED LEFTISTS AS IRRESPONSIBLE
AND DANGEROUS, BUT ADMITTED THEY ENJOY LITTLE
POPULAR SUPPORT. LEFTISTS' "CAMPAIGN OF DOUBTS
HAD LED MANY TO QUESTION ALL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. (NOTE:
LEFTIST WEEKLY AL AHALI WAS CONFISCATED FOR 10TH TIME
AUGUST 23.) EILTS

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